

Respiratory Hazards

WAC 296-841-300

Definitions

Breathing zone

The space around and in front of an employee's nose and mouth, forming a hemisphere with a 6 to 9 inch radius.

Ceiling

An exposure limit, measured over the shortest time period feasible, that must not be exceeded during any part of the employee's workday.

Dust

Solid particles suspended in air. Dusts are generated by handling, drilling, crushing, grinding, rapid impact, detonation, or decrepitation of organic or inorganic materials such as rock, ore, metal, coal, wood, grain, etc.

Exposed or exposure

The contact an employee has with a toxic substance, harmful physical agent or oxygen deficient condition, whether or not protection is provided by respirators or other personal protective equipment (PPE). Exposure can occur through various routes of entry, such as inhalation, ingestion, skin contact, or skin absorption.

Fume

Solid particles suspended in air, generated by condensation from the gaseous state, generally after volatilization from molten metals, etc.

Gas

A normally formless fluid which can be changed to the liquid or solid state by the effect of increased pressure or decreased temperature or both.

Mist

Liquid droplets suspended in air, generated by condensation from the gaseous to the liquid state or by breaking up a liquid into a dispersed state, such as by splashing, foaming, spraying or atomizing.

Oxygen deficient

An atmosphere with an oxygen content below 19.5% by volume.



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WAC 296-841-300 (Continued)

Permissible exposure limits (PEL)

Permissible exposure limits (PELs) are employee exposures to toxic substances or harmful agents that must not be exceeded. PELs are specified in applicable WISHA rules.

Short-term exposure limit (STEL)

An exposure limit averaged over a short time period (usually measured for 15 minutes) that must not be exceeded during any part of an employee's workday.

Time weighted average (TWA₈)

An exposure limit averaged over 8 hours that must not be exceeded during an employee's workday.

Toxic substance

Any chemical substance or biological agent, such as bacteria, virus, and fungus, which is any of the following:

- Listed in the latest edition of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances (RTECS)
- Shows positive evidence of an acute or chronic health hazard in testing conducted by, or known to, the employer.
- The subject of a material safety data sheet kept by or known to the employer showing the material may pose a hazard to human health.

Vapor

The gaseous form of a substance that is normally in the solid or liquid state.

